

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-23 and add new claims 24-51.

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24. A method for preparing, a factor VIII solution that is essentially free of viruses and essentially devoid of vWF (von Willebrand factor) and factor VIII-vWF complexes, comprising:

(a) obtaining a starting factor VIII solution devoid of factor VIII-vWF complexes; and

(b) filtering said solution through a hydrophilic virus filter.

25. A method according to claim 24, wherein the solution of (a) is obtained by dissociating factor VIII-vWF complexes.

26. A method according to claim 25, wherein a chaotropic ion is used for dissociating the factor VIII-vWF complexes.

27. A method according to claim 26, wherein the chaotropic ion is a divalent ion.

28. A method according to claim 27, wherein the divalent ion is the Ca^{2+} ion.

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29. A method according to claim 28, wherein the divalent ion is added in the form of a saline solution from 0.2 M to salt saturation.

30. A method according to claim 29, wherein the solution is a CaCl_2 solution.

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31. Method according to claim 28, wherein the Ca^{2+} ion is added in the form of a CaCl_2 solution, 0.35 M to saturation.

32. A method according claim 24, wherein the filtration of (b) is carried out at a pressure lower than the threshold recommended by the supplier.

33. A method according to claim 31, wherein the filter has a pore size of 15 nanometers and is used at a pressure lower than 0.3 bar.

34. A method according to claim 33, wherein the filter is used at a pressure lower than 0.2 bar.

35. A method according to claim 24, wherein the filtration of (b) is carried out at a temperature of about $35 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$.

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36. A method according to claim 25, wherein the starting factor VIII solution of (a) is obtained by ion exchange chromatography.

37. A method according to claim 36, wherein the starting factor VIII solution of (a) is derived from a cryoprecipitated fraction of plasma.

38. A method according to claim 36, wherein the starting factor VIII fraction obtained at the end of the purification by ion exchange chromatography is eluted under the conditions of the disassociation of the factor VIII-vWF complexes.

39. A method according to claim 24, wherein the starting factor VIII solution is obtained by heparin precipitation.

40. A method according to claim 39, wherein the starting factor VIII solution of (a) is derived from a cryoprecipitated fraction of plasma.

41. A method according to claim 24, wherein the starting factor VIII solution is treated with an effective amount of an anti-viral solvent and/or detergent.

42. A method according to claim 24, wherein the starting factor VIII is immunopurified.

43. A method according to claim 24, wherein the starting factor VIII solution comprises recombinant factor VIII.

44. A method according to claim 24, wherein the starting factor VIII solution has a specific activity at least equal to 50 IU/mg.

45. A method according to claim 44, wherein the starting factor VIII solution has a specific activity at least equal to 100 IU/mg.

46. A method according to claim 24, wherein the concentration C of the starting factor VIII solution is from approximately 2 to approximately 100 U/ml. ?

47. A method according to claim 46, wherein the concentration C of the starting factor VIII solution is from approximately 10 to approximately 50 U/ml. ?

48. A method according to 24, wherein the protein content of the starting factor VIII solution is from approximately 0.05 to approximately 0.5 mg/ml. ?

49. A method according to 48, wherein the protein content of the starting factor VIII solution is from approximately 0.1 to approximately 0.5 mg/ml. ?

50. A method according to claim 24, wherein the virus filter has a mean pore size between 13 to 17 nm.

51. A factor VIII solution obtained by the method according to claim 24.